

Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

An ultrasonic scanning apparatus wherein:
the three-dimensional displacement vector of a
backscatterer is estimated from the backscatter from
partially overlapping beams cross-correlated in multiple
cross-correlators instantiated in a field programmable
gate array or application specific integrated circuit.

[c2] The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the cross-correlation is formed by an algorithm wherein
the elements (data points) of the kernel in one beam are
used with the by the elements (data points) from the
kernel in a second beam in such a fashion that both ker-
nels are not shifted over each other but are shifted to-
gether on each clock pulse.

[c3] The apparatus of claim 2, wherein:

multiple cross-correlation sub-results are attained by a
plurality of beam pairs.

[c4] The apparatus of claim 3, wherein:

26 cross-correlation sub-results are attained from one
acoustic transmission with nine simultaneous, adjacent

in three-dimensions, receive breams to estimate the flow of the backscatterers in three dimensions.